



CYMRU WLEDIG

**LPIP**

RURAL WALES

# Research in Action in Rural Wales

**Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales  
in the community**



**Public transport  
is scarce – it  
does impact  
on my job  
opportunities**

**It worries me that  
my children may  
not be able to  
afford a house  
locally**

**I'm concerned  
about flooding  
from the local  
river**

**Now the village  
shop has closed,  
I wonder how it  
will affect our  
community?**

**Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural  
Wales is a collaboration  
between universities, social  
enterprises, local resident and  
activist groups, businesses,  
and policy partners exploring  
how research and innovation  
can help find solutions to the  
challenges facing rural Wales.**

**Communities in rural Wales  
want to thrive and to celebrate  
their culture and proud  
heritage in a fast changing  
world. How can we work  
together to make sure this  
happens? Cymru Wledig LPIP  
Rural Wales is an opportunity  
to improve the resilience of  
the places we care about with  
innovative approaches.**

**We recognise that different  
regions often face different  
struggles and a 'one size  
fits all' approach across  
Wales would not be helpful.  
As such, our programme  
of Community-led Action  
Research aims to put  
communities in control of  
shaping the research and  
finding solutions that work  
for local people.**

Our Community-led Action Research projects are testing new ways of gathering evidence on topics of local importance identified by community residents. Community researchers collect and analyse data themselves and decide what to do with the results, guided by an academic mentor and supported by a Community Research Network.

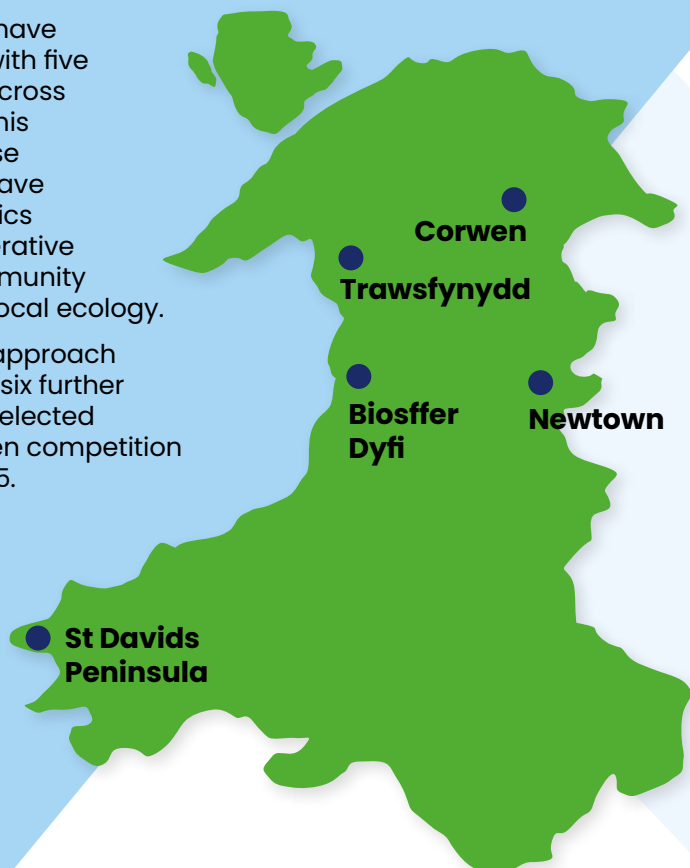
Since 2024 we have been working with five communities across Wales to pilot this approach. These communities have focused on topics such as regenerative economy, community transport and local ecology.

In stage 2, the approach is expanded to six further communities, selected through an open competition in summer 2025.

“

***Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales has supported me to improve my research skills and focus my research in a more useful direction. I hope that the results from this research will be used to help inform both SDCP's development and Welsh Government policy in the future.***

Sian Dixon at South Denbighshire  
Community Partnership /  
Partneriaeth Gymunedol  
De Sir Ddinbych





## **Identifying key issues and exploring solutions. Together in partnership.**

During the launch of Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales at the Senedd in July 2024, we shared our vision for the next three years. From the start, we were clear that we wanted to co-design and co-produce the projects, working **with** local people and organisations to identify opportunities, and ensure that the work we do delivers precisely what the community wants and needs.

Historically, too many policies have been introduced 'top-down' by people not living in those communities. Or new regulations introduced with the best intentions, but perhaps not quite providing benefits equally to all regions – especially those in rural areas.

By placing local decision-making at the heart of the projects, we aim to support sustainable and transparent new initiatives.

Our Community-led Action Research projects will produce data and evidence that communities can use to develop their own solutions to local issues, to evidence bids for external funding, or to lobby Welsh Government, councils or public service providers. We will give communities the means to achieve tangible change.

## Collaboration, Co-Design, and Co-operation

Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales values the lived experiences of the local experts: You. Those living through the daily challenges in the Welsh countryside are best placed to spot the opportunities, help to identify how improvements can be made, and influence future research and policies.

## Our approach to collaboration

With regular meetings with community residents and organisations, and taking the time to dig deeper into the issues affecting the lives of locals, the academic mentors are supporting people to gather evidence and explore issues that are important where they live.

Skills training is provided by Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales, guiding community members to become action researchers themselves and demonstrating how to present information to decision-makers, to ensure long term and sustainable change.

***“The Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales team have been a great help in providing resources and inspiring volunteer groups to expand their research work. Partnering with Biosffer Dyfi, Lab Dŵr Dyffryn Dyfi and the Dyfi Biosphere Swift Project, Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales has been there at every stage of the development of an impactful research plan. The Screams and Streams project has partnered with academic mentors to hone the collection of a valuable base line of data that will be a springboard to further research”.***

James Cass, Biosffer Dyfi





## Improving life in rural Wales

Community-led Action Research is just one way in which Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales is using research and innovation to improve life in rural Wales. We are also carrying out targeted studies to inform policy on pressing issues such as understanding growth in the rural economy, avoiding trade-offs in net zero projects, and supporting Welsh language grassroots cultural activity. We are conducting surveys to update evidence for decision-making. Our Innovation Labs are exploring interventions to unblock obstacles to change.

## Contact us

If you would like to collaborate or receive more information, please contact Professor Michael Woods, Director, Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales  
**lpip@aber.ac.uk**

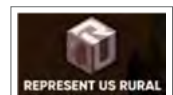
Website: **[www.LPIP.cymru](http://www.LPIP.cymru)**

LinkedIn: **[www.linkedin.com/company/cymru-wledig-lpip-rural-wales](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cymru-wledig-lpip-rural-wales)**

## Funded by



## Core Partners



## Hosted by

